

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District were recognized during the 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club paid tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Mayor Rudolph Clay was honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award for 2012. The individuals recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast included: Attorney Arlene D. Colvin, Mr. Richard (Chappy) Woods, Pastor Dwight A. Gardner, Ms. Sandra Jean Irons, Colonel (Retired) Richard D. Ligon, and Bishop E. Bobby Warren. Yolkfellow James Piggee was selected as the 2011 Frontier of the Year. In addition, the club also inducted its first Honorary Member, Reverend Pharis D. Evans, Pastor of Clark Road Baptist Church in Gary, for his many years of service to the Gary Frontiers Service Club. Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay and the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President Sean Jones, 1st Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, Corresponding Secretary Ferba Hines and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as the honorees and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING MS. KIMBERLY
SMITH FOR HER DESIRE AND
COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful and tenacious young woman, Ms. Kimberly Smith. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a boundless desire to achieve.

Ms. Smith is a lifelong resident of Mayersville, Mississippi, and is the third of seven children born to Melvin and Emma Smith.

Ms. Smith was the salutatorian of her 1999 South Delta High School class. She attended Jackson State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Graduating with honors from Jackson State in 2003, she began teaching at South Delta Elementary School. She taught both second and fourth grade during her short tenure.

In 2004, Ms. Smith was in a car accident that would change her life forever. After her accident, she decided the only thing to keep her going was her drive for education; for that reason, she pursued and obtained her Masters of Education degree. In 2008, she received her Masters of Education with "Honors" from Delta State University. Ms. Smith lives by the motto, "Saved by Grace, spared by Mercy."

Ms. Smith is an active member of Rising Star Seven Day Adventist, where she serves as Youth Director.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humble but dynamic servant, Ms. Kimberly Smith for her unwavering desire to education.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR BOB
WASSERMAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of the Mayor of Fremont, California, Bob Wasserman. The residents of Fremont and communities throughout California and beyond mourn the loss of this dedicated public servant who passed away on December 29, 2011.

Mayor Wasserman was born in Gary, Indiana, and moved to California and attended public schools in the Los Angeles area. He became a Police Officer in the City of Montebello, California, and was appointed to the position of Chief of Police in San Carlos, California in 1969 where he served for three years. He was appointed Chief of Police in Fremont in January 1976 and retired in 1992.

In 1992, Mayor Wasserman was elected to the Fremont City Council and served until 2004. He was elected Mayor in 2004 and currently held that position.

Mayor Wasserman's 40-year career in law enforcement included appointments in Southern California and a term as president of the

California Peace Officers' Association. He has been recognized by the California State Senate for outstanding public service and was the recipient of the Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award.

His numerous affiliations include Past President of the California Peace Officer's Association, California Police Chief's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training and Police Executive Research Forum.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Science and Administration from California State University, Los Angeles and received his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Mayor Wasserman is survived by his wife of 53 years, Linda, and their two children, Dan and Jill. I join the community extending heartfelt sympathy to the family, colleagues and friends of Mayor Wasserman. He served with honor and distinction and his many positive contributions to make a difference in the lives of others have left an indelible mark and will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUBEN
AYALA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a devoted public servant, Ruben Ayala. Ruben, a former State Senator from California passed away on January 4, 2012, at the age of eighty-nine.

Ruben was born and raised in segregated Chino, California, to Hispanic parents. During his youth, he attended Chino High School and was widely respected for his strong athletic ability. After high school, Ruben served honorably in the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific during World War II.

After his service in the Marine Corps, Ruben attended the National Electronic Institute of Los Angeles, where he studied television repair. It was during this time that he met his beloved wife, Irene. Ruben worked in television repair in Chino, and later the insurance industry, until starting his political career in 1955 with his election to the school board.

In 1962, Ruben continued his career as a city councilman in Chino. Two years later, in 1964, Ruben became Chino's first elected mayor, where he began to leave his lasting impression on the community. From 1974 until 1998, Ruben served admirably as a State Senator, becoming the first Mexican-American to serve in the Senate since 1911.

I had the privilege of knowing Ruben and Irene personally. I also had the honor of serving with Ruben in the California State Legislature. During our service together, I quickly discovered that Ruben was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans, who looked to him for advice and counsel because of his ability to lead and his hard working reputation. Ruben's success as a Senator opened doors for Latinos and Latinas in California. Ruben encouraged and inspired me to run for his Senate seat, when his career ended due to term limits.